

**THE SUBURBAN CITIZEN.**  
**WASHINGTON, D. C.**  
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In speaking to the editor of the Citizen the other day Mr. Louis P. Shoemaker, president of the Brightwood Citizens' Association, said:  
 "YOUR PAPER IS CERTAINLY DOING GOOD WORK FOR THE SUBURBS AND SUBURBAN PEOPLE. IT IS A GREAT PITY THE OTHER PAPERS, TOO, DON'T DEVOTE SOME SPACE TO OUR INTERESTS."

The New York Herald thinks that although the standard of requirements for admission to our schools of law and medicine has been raised during the last twenty years they are still too low. The assertion is made in the Columbia Literary Monthly that "the greater part of the students at our medical school are not only uncultured, but often even uncouth, thus being fundamentally unfit to become the highest type of their profession. It is argued that no one should be admitted unless he has taken a degree as an evidence of a foundation of general culture. This is already the rule at Harvard and Johns Hopkins, and the appearance of this article in the chief undergraduate paper of Columbia reflects a widespread feeling that it should be applied to the medical school of this university.

The verb meaning to travel by an automatic carriage is variously stated, with an unfortunate tendency to lengthen its syllable arrangement. The New York Times in passing a comment upon the speed regulations of the metropolis employs the word "automobilizing," a lingual concoction which the general public cannot be expected to tolerate. On the other hand, the equally objectionable verb "to mobe," for which some contend, shows some signs of adoption. It may be recalled that during the bicycle craze a few years ago the verb "to bike" became more or less popular, but was frowned upon by the students of language. The slanging tendency of moderns has produced a curious specimen of word-mangling in this connection. Springing, it may be believed, from the verbal contortions of a pair of German-dialect comedians, the name "automobile" has been facetiously adopted in some quarters, and from this atrocity has come a line of "bubbling" nouns and verbs which display the radical tendency in the adaptation of language to the passing phases of science and custom, observes the Washington Star.

**NEWSPAPERS ARE READ.**  
 How the Late State Senator Smith, of Pennsylvania, Was Convinced of It.  
 George Barton, private secretary to Collector of the Port C. Wesley Thomas, tells a good story of how the late Senator George Handy Smith was forced to bend the knee to the power of the press. It was when that well-known legislator represented a city district in the Pennsylvania Senate at Harrisburg. There were times when Senator Smith was strenuous in pooh-poohing the influence wielded by the newspapers. He always maintained that he was invulnerable to their shafts. Despite this, few men were liked so much as the genial Senator by the newspaper correspondents. There was one paper in Philadelphia which Senator Smith, in season and out of season, always belittled.

To its representative he was always fond of saying: "Your sheet is never read." There came a day of retribution, however, when the Senator was effectually silenced. "My paper never read," confided the correspondent to his associates. "Well, I'll show the Senator how wrong he is. I'll open his eyes and close his lips," and this is what was done. One night in sending off his batch of news to his paper the correspondent closed his "copy" by adding the following innocent appearing paragraph:  
 "Senator George Handy Smith has fifty copies of the superb Bird Book lately issued by the Legislature. He will shortly mail them to his friends." That was all, but what worry it cost the Senator! A few days after the publication of the paragraph Senator Smith was in his seat in the Senate. He called a page and requested that his mail be brought. The boy lugged in a huge basket filled with letters. The Senator gazed at it, but said nothing. A minute later the page appeared again with another basket equally full. Then the Senator began the task of opening the missives. They were all alike, and all contained requests from sturdy constituents for a copy of the much-prized Bird Book. Some one shoved a copy of the despised paper containing the above-mentioned paragraph under the Senator's eye. He read. He was enlightened, nor afterward did he have a disparaging word to say against the power of the press. Worse than all, every letter had to be answered.—Philadelphia Evening Telegraph.

#### WORDS OF WISDOM.

Habit is a mighty force, and must either tend toward that which is good or that which is evil. It rests with us whether it shall be one of our best friends or one of our worst enemies.

Patience and strength are what we need; an earnest use of what we have now; and all the time an earnest discontent until we come to what we ought to be.

There are lawless moments which come to us all if we have no guide but desire, and the pathway where desire leads us seems suddenly closed.

The frank confession of a fault emphasizes to ourselves the necessity of overcoming it, and exerts a strong force in that direction.

When a man defies existing laws he creates others for himself more rigid and severe than those from which he breaks away.

The person who spends his time in hunting down lies will have no leisure for the pursuit of truth.

Tell the truth and let others say what they will. You are responsible for but one tongue.

Men may be born with fortunes ready made, but character they have to achieve.

A cruel story runs on wheels, and every hand oils the wheels as they run.

#### Sun and Skin.

A physician has been investigating some of the effects of direct sunlight on the skin. Painting a band on his arm with India ink, he exposed the member to a scorching sun. The usual painful effects followed, except beneath the band, where the skin remained white and unaffected. He suggests that the tan which continued exposure produces upon the skin is a protective effect. If further experiments establish this interference, a further hypothesis will be rendered probable, namely, that the power acquired by the human skin in the tropics of secreting a pigment is really protective of its lower and functionally active layers. Offhand one would be apt to conclude that a black skin ought to increase the heat effects of the solar radiation. We are required to learn now whether the harm is really done by the heat rays, for conceivably it may be due to any other of the diverse sorts of vibration of which that radiation is now known to be a highly complex phenomenon.—Buenos Ayres Press.

#### Deadly Panama Climate.

A New Orleans man who spent five years as road master of the Panama railroad testified before the Senate Committee last month that of a group of fifty-three men sent to the isthmus as engineers, superintendents and clerks, all but three had died within three months. The mortality among the men employed on the original French canal company was frightful, says the Review of Reviews. It is not pleasant to think of what might happen to a force of Americans sent down to complete the Panama canal—although doubtless the health conditions of the region could be improved. The nearer location of the Nicaragua route, furthermore, renders it much more desirable for our own traffic, especially for our Pacific coast shippers. All these things must be taken into account.

## POPULAR SCIENCE

Wilhelm Labes, a well-known German zoologist, has just published an interesting book on the Island of Heligoland, in which he states, among other things, that the island is one of the largest graves for birds in the world. Millions of larches, snipe and thrushes are caught there every year. The birds are sold in the many hotels of the islands, and also largely exported to England and the Continent. It is not seldom that from 10,000 to 15,000 are caught and killed in a single night.

The authorities of some of the towns where smallpox has appeared have ordered that all dogs and cats running at large shall be shot. This action is based on the well-established fact that the hair of these animals offers a congenial lodging place for disease germs, and they thus carry them about and increase the spread of contagion. Physicians caution parents not to allow pet dogs or cats to enter the room where a diphtheria or scarlet fever patient is, and not to let their children play with dogs or cats that belong to the families where there has recently been a case of contagious disease.

From the latest reports from Nyasaland it appears that British Central Africa is in a fair way to become an industrial colony soon. The most recent move in the development of the country is a concession which has been granted by the Imperial Government for the construction of a line of railway from Chiromo to Blantyre, connecting the centre of the coffee plantations with the coast by way of the Shire and Zambesi rivers. Operations are expected to begin toward the end of the year, and will probably last for two years or so. Meanwhile, it is stated, experiments are being conducted with a line on the monorail principle, and it is also intended to establish a system of motor trolleys and traction engines for transport work in the protectorate.

Among the many suggestions offered to account for the swift expansion of the nebulous rings surrounding Nova Persei, none seems more captivating to the imagination than that of Professor Kapteyn, who suggests that the phenomenon may be due to the echoing of light. At the probable distance of Nova Persei from the earth the observed velocity of the expansion exactly equals the velocity of light. That being so, it is only necessary to suppose the space surrounding the new star to contain scattered nebulous or meteoric matter, from which the light of the explosion that produced the star is reflected to us at greater and greater distances from the star as the light expands around it. It is like the reflection of the sound of an explosion taking place in a hilly country, and coming to our ears in a succession of echoes as it reaches more and more distant ranges.

The continually increasing demand for India rubber, and the great interest manifested in all efforts to prevent waste of the trees from which rubber is derived, have led our consuls in countries where these trees grow to collect many valuable facts concerning them. Consul Goldschmidt at La Guayra recently transmitted to Washington some highly interesting statements about the rubber, or caoutchouc, trees, of the upper Orinoco by Dr. Lucien Morisse, who has made extensive personal investigations in that region. Dr. Morisse makes the somewhat surprising statement that the prohibition of the Venezuelan Government against the felling of the trees is altogether unnecessary, because "it relates to an immense forest measuring upward of 74,000,000 acres, where caoutchouc exists in abundance, and which it would require millions and millions of hands to exploit, whereas it only contains 3000 or 4000 Indians, not more than the tenth part of whom are engaged in the work."

#### A Useless Search.

A discussion arose at a meeting of medical men who had assembled at the Philadelphia College of Physicians as to the utility of the X-ray on the battle field, and the surgeon, Dr. W. W. Keen, told this story: "After the battle of Gettysburg a corps under the command of a young physician, who had recently been appointed, was ordered to collect the wounded. Among the disabled was a man who had been shot through the leg. The young doctor proceeded to use his knife. After cutting for half an hour he was interrupted by the young soldier with: 'Say, how much longer are you going to cut?' 'Until I get the bullet,' replied the doctor. 'Why, you fool, if that's what you want I've got it in my pocket.' Sure enough, the bullet had lodged in the skin of the man's leg after passing through, and he had kept it as a souvenir."

**Neglected Science For Perambulator.**  
 A man of science and his wife, a college-bred woman with an unabating interest in sociology and reforms, spent three entire evenings in trying to decide what kind of a baby carriage they should purchase for their infant son. The way in which those sober-minded persons went over catalogues and price lists and gravely discussed the comparative advantages of this and that make of carriage was a contradiction of everything that has been said against the baleful influence of the high education upon domesticity.—New York Press.

The population of the German empire includes 3,000,000 who use the Polish language.

## A MERRY CEREMONY.

Kisses Collected in Lieu of Taxes on Hook Tuesday.  
 The "hooking" which takes place in Hungerford on the Tuesday following the second Sunday after Easter, varies little from that practiced in olden days in many other parts of England. On the morning of Hook Tuesday, or Hookney day, two officers, named tithing or "tutti-men" (collectors of a penny tithe, and bearers of nosegays or "tutties," in west country parlance), parade the town, carrying each a staff ornamented with flowers, bedecked with ribbons and surmounted with an orange. Their business is to call at every house and demand a poll-tax of one penny for each inmate over fourteen years of age; in the case of the fair sex a kiss may be asked for as an equivalent, and no refusal is taken! Usually a handsome sum is given by the master of the house as payment in full for himself and family, but cases have occurred where timid and unprotected (usually unmarried) ladies have been afraid to open their doors lest the kiss should be demanded "without the option of a fine," and on such occasions the gallant tutti-men are said to have effected an irregular entrance, and taken ample toll for their extra trouble.

As the "tutti-men" are treated frequently on their rounds the town is kept in a ferment for the greater part of the day, hosts of holiday makers swelling the procession, while cakes and oranges are freely enjoyed by the swarms of excited children who follow close on the heels of the officers. Hooking proper has disappeared from the order of events, a circumstance to be regretted by all lovers of quaint customs. Formerly the men went through the town on Monday carrying a chair gayly decked with ribbons, or, more probably, it was kept concealed until some unwary woman ventured from her house, when she was caught, placed in the chair and "hooked," or lifted three times, after which, if unable or unwilling to pay the tax of money demanded, she was kissed by all the revelers. On the following day it was the privilege of the women to "hook" the men, with the usual result of a large haul of money, with which a supper was provided. In most parts of England the celebration of hooktide has fallen entirely into disuse; even in Berkshire, as we have seen, the rougher element has been dropped, though the toll and its substitute, the garlands, and the supper, are still religiously maintained.—London Globe.

#### Her Wish Was Gratified.

A big woman, all the way from Dakota, was a caller at police headquarters the other day. She wanted to see a detective and much to her surprise he was no different in appearance from men who follow other callings.

"Excuse me, sir," she said, as she approached the desk, "but would you please show me a detective?"  
 "What's the trouble?" Clerk Gorman inquired. "Have you been robbed?"  
 "Been robbed?" queried the visitor. "Indeed, I haven't. I want to see a detective, that's all. I've heard of 'em and read about 'em, and now I would just like to see one."

"Here comes one now," she was told, "Madam, this is Detective Proctor."

"Well, I do declare!" exclaimed the woman. "At last I've seen a—and so you are a detective?"

All the blood in the officer's veins seemed to rush to his cheeks, and what to say he did not know.

"I'm glad I've seen a detective at last," she said, "but you look the same as any other man. Your eyes do seem as though they were only about half open. Is that the way all detectives look?"

Detective Proctor recovered from his embarrassment sufficiently to inquire of the caller where she was from.

"I'm from Dakota," she said, "and I'm glad I see a detective at last."

Taking her little child by the hand she resumed her journey through the hallway and left the building.—Washington Star.

#### Pointed Paragraphs.

A long face is a poor investment. Haste to get rich keeps many a man poor.

Many a man's word is like an echo—merely a hollow mockery.

Unless you forget that you are trying to go to sleep you will not succeed. The poor author is doubly poor when he is compelled to borrow his thoughts.

A married woman seldom goes on the lecture platform; she has her audience at home.

Actions speak louder than words. Some men never say die, yet they all have to do it.

When a man says he had forgotten all about that little loan you just returned he is a liar.

When a dog barks at the moon all night it is a sure sign of insomnia on the part of the dog—and others.

The man who leaves church just as the collection plate starts around may have been taken suddenly ill, but he rarely gets credit for it.—Chicago News.

#### "MALARIO."

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